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Courts to decide councillor's fate

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Audit committee rules Mark Taylor 'contravened' law for 2014 expenses

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

The City of Ottawa has so far spent almost $70,000 on municipal elections audits — and that's before one councillor steps into a courtroom for apparently contravening the Municipal Elections Act.

On Monday, the election compliance audit committee ruled that Bay Ward Coun. Mark Taylor "appears to have contravened" the act for his 2014 municipal elections expenses. It now falls to the courts to decide if his expenses broke the elections law.

West Carleton-March Coun. Eli El-Chantiry's expenses were also under the microscope, but the committee decided against pursuing legal proceedings.

"Obviously, it didn't go the way that I was hopeful for, but it's a process," said Taylor.

The issue is that someone noted the two-time councillor had no deficit in 2010, when he was actually $5,121 in the red.

Not including Monday's meeting, the approximate costs of Raymond Grant Chabot Thornton's audits and the $175-per-hour per diem to the committee members have climbed to $67,368. It will come from the city's election reserve fund.

River Ward Coun. Riley Brockington also appeared before the committee early on, but was let off the hook.

Because the committee also ruled the application against El-Chantiry was reasonable, the auditors' fees will fall on the city's shoulders — and not on complainant Pat Ready.

Committee members also seemed to agree the Municipal Elections Act is full of grey areas, particularly with respect to rules around election signage. As in the case of El-Chantiry, there were questions about signs he reused from previous campaigns.

However, the price of replacing old signs is unclear in the act. To avoid any future problems, El-Chantiry said he wouldn't be recycling signs anymore.

The committee, chaired by former Elections Canada chief electoral officer Jean-Pierre Kingsley, voted to make a list of recommendations to the provincial government with respect to changes to the Municipal Elections Act. This needs council's approval.

As for Taylor, the City of Ottawa will issue a request for proposals for external legal counsel. If found guilty, he risks losing his seat.

$67,368

The approximate cost of Raymond Grant Chabot Thornton's audits and the $175-per-hour per diem to committee members, which will come from a city reserve fund.

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Your essential daily news

Slavery, child labour tied to global shrimp supply chains, including Wal-Mart, Red Lobster. **Business**

DEVELOPMENT

Westgate mall's days numbered

Steph Willems
Metroland Media

Time may be running short for Ottawa's oldest indoor shopping mall.

A public meeting on Wednesday will shed light on exactly what property owner RioCan is planning for the aging Westgate Shopping Centre.

The future for Westgate appears to be a mix of residential, retail and public space, according to Kitchissippi Coun. Jeff Leiper.

"The plans I've seen, though conceptual, have tall apartment buildings on the east and west ends of the site bookmarking a green public space between them," said Leiper.

The mall opened in 1955 at the height of the post-war baby boom, as suburbanization took hold on the outskirts of North American cities.

Anchored by a Freimans department store, the mall soon lost status to larger, more modern malls like Carlingwood and Bayshore as suburbia marched further outward.

A retail component is included in RioCan's plan, Leiper said, and parking would be moved mostly underground. The mall itself would eventually be razed in the multi-phase plan over 15 to 20 years.

A spur line of LRT is listed as a future possibility in the city's Phase 2 project.

The Dec. 16 meeting runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Ottawa room of the Best Western hotel, 1274 Carling Ave.

University union backs teacher facing expulsion

EDUCATION

Carleton prof facing board dismissal for critical blogs

A group representing university teachers is backing a Carleton University professor who was given until Monday to sign an agreement that he says would suppress his academic freedom.

Professor Root Gorelick, one of four faculty representatives on the school's board of governors, has refused to sign a revised code of conduct that sets out the duties and responsibilities for the university's governors.

The biology teacher has drawn the ire of university officials by publicly criticizing some board decisions in a blog. He is the only one among Carleton's 32-member board who has refused to sign the revised undertaking.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers calls the revised policy egregious, claiming that it runs contrary to principles of openness and transparency.

Canadian Association of University Teachers executive director David Robinson said it appears there is a "vendetta" against Gorelick from about a year ago, when the professor wrote a blog critical of a board committee proposal to disallow student union or faculty union members from being on the board.

"It's pretty outrageous that a public institution like a university would prohibit any discussion on the part of any board member of public meetings," said Robinson.

Carleton's statement of general duties, fiduciary responsibilities and conflict of interest prohibits board members from reporting or commenting on board meetings.

It also requires board members to "publicly support" all board decisions and to maintain the confidentiality of all private discussions. Gorelick has signed similar undertakings in the past.

But the revised code of conduct, adopted by the board in September, also deems any board member's comments about board meetings in print, electronic or social media "inappropriate and not in the best interests of the university."

The university maintains that personal blogs voicing dissent on matters the board has decided are not consistent with the role of a governor.

A decision on Gorelick's tenure on the board isn't expected until the new year. Should he be dismissed from the board, the Carleton University Academic Staff Association representing teachers at the school said it will launch a formal grievance on his behalf. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BLOOD DONATIONS A TIME FOR GIVING Health Minister Jane Philpott donates blood at Canadian Blood Services on Monday. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finding hometown pride in the heart-shaped city

GIFT GUIDE

Loving your home roots is suddenly a popular trend

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

This gift guide isn't made of the contents of a tacky tourist boutique — today, we were looking for items to embrace your Ottawa pride, not your capital of Canada pride.

Loving your hometown and your home neighbourhood has suddenly become cool, and Ottawa creatives are slowly grinding away at the city's underdog reputation.

The burgeoning "maker scene" and successful support local campaigns have helped – drawing on both history and good design to reboot Ottawa's reputation.

Graphic designer Steve St. Pierre is the man behind a growing symbol of Ottawa pride designed for local culture website Apt 613's "Support Local" campaign.

St. Pierre's logo for the cause included the shape of the city's boundaries — which happens to look just like a heart.

"It was pretty bizarre to me that no one had noticed before," he said. "But it was super great and people really latched on to it."

Since then, St. Pierre has more or less relinquished the design concept to the people of Ottawa — it's now become popular on jewellery and posters.

Of course, we wouldn't be Ottawa without self-deprecating humour and sometimes artists veer into the satirical.

You can buy a mug, for example, decorated with a "fantasy" subway line imagined for Ottawa's (for now) subway-less terrain.

In 2011, St. Pierre won an Apt 613 T-shirt contest with a black design that proclaimed, "I am not a government employee."

Local artist Stirling Prentice, who created Winged Beast Outfitters, sums up the city's perceived lack of enthusiasm with his own T-shirt that simply reads: "Ottawa is a Place."

"That's the kind of pride you sometimes see around Ottawa," explained Prentice. "We're not always glowing about our city."

That doesn't mean we have nothing to glow about — the city is considered by locals to be a craft beer mecca, a rare champion of work-life balance and a place to enjoy the outdoors year-round.

These types of things appeal to Emily Wilfong, a clay artist who moved to the city four years ago and is currently selling her Ottawa-heart-shaped necklaces out of the weekend Ottawa Farmers Market.

"When I moved here people gave me the impression of a boring city, but there's all kinds of stuff to do here," she said. "It's just a city that makes a lot of sense to me."

So go ahead, Toronto — embrace the "6ix" and keep your TTC token cufflinks — we'll be here making sense of our stubborn love for "the city that fun forgot."

1. **Lapel pin made from Parliament Hill's old copper roofs**. Various shapes, $6.99-13.99 at the Parliamentary Boutique.
2. **Various Ottawa neighbourhood hats**, $38 from Tuckshopco.com or in store at Sporting Life.
3. **Ottawa is a Place Shirt T-Shirt**, $35 from Etsy.com
4. **Wildtree Ottawa Love Pendants**, $44 from Workshop-boutique.ca
5. **Bytown Museum glass**, $12 from Bytown Museum.
6. **Ottawa Map Socks** $25 from Ottawaest.myshopify.com.
7. **Ottawa Jumbo Journal**, $17 from Ecojot.com
8. **613 Hand Stitched Pennants**, various colours $32-42 from Drake General Store inside Hudson's Bay, 73 Rideau Street.
9. **YOW Ottawa luggage tag**, $8.50 from Drake General Store inside Hudson's Bay, 73 Rideau Street.
10. **NDC "I Kinda Like it Here" Ottawa Trivet**, $40 from Workshopboutique.ca.
11. **Dominion Brewing Co. Town and Country Blonde**, $10.57 for 750mL growler from Brewdonkey.ca
12. **Lissa Bowie Hottawa Studs** from Etsy.com
13. **Ottawa Food: A Hungry Capital**, $21.99 from Chapters.ca
14. **Ottawa Tube Map Mug**, $20 from Ottawaest.myshopify.com.

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Shooting near scene of two stabbings

VIOLENCE

Councillor to meet with police chief

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Beacon Hill-Cyrville Coun. Tim Tierney and police Chief Charles Bordeleau are set to meet this week about a Gloucester neighbourhood that has been plagued by violence over the past eight months.

Ottawa police were called Sunday evening to an apartment complex outside 2041 Arrowsmith Dr. after a 23-year-old man was shot multiple times in the upper and lower body. He was sent to hospital in serious but stable condition.

The crime scene is just around the corner from Jasmine Crescent, which is where there were two separate deadly stabbings earlier this year.

Connor Stevension, 18, was stabbed to death in the apartment stairwell at 2020 Jasmine Cres. on April 14.

Nearly three months ago, 17-year-old Issaiah Clachar was killed at the same address in a knife attack.

> **Beacon Hill-Cyrville continues to be a very safe community.**
> Coun. Tim Tierney

Sunday's shooting on Arrowsmith Drive is also the city's 43rd shooting of 2015.

Tierney said in an emailed statement to Metro that he has spoken with Bordeleau about the shooting and is scheduling a meeting this week.

"I will continue to work with the community and will be speaking with them regarding this unfortunate incident," his statement said.

"Overall, this appears to be another targeted incident and Beacon Hill-Cyrville continues to be a very safe community."

The councillor said he also plans to participate in a ride-along with Ottawa police officers and to discuss "what concrete solutions can be applied to this citywide issue."

No arrests have been made in the shooting investigation and police say they do not have any information on a suspect. Police say the shooting was a targeted incident.

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TRIAL

Duffy: I resisted repayment scenario

Sen. Mike Duffy says he resisted "at every opportunity" a scenario laid out for him by the former Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to tell the public he had made a mistake and was repaying his Senate expenses.

Five days into the former Conservative senator's testimony, defence lawyer Donald Bayne has arrived at the most politically charged issue of the trial — the $90,000 payment.

Nigel Wright, the one-time chief of staff to former prime minister Stephen Harper, secretly repaid Duffy's contested Senate expenses in March 2013.

The negotiations between the PMO, Duffy and his lawyer over the repayment have formed the basis of the bribery charge that the senator faces. Duffy has pleaded not guilty to 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery.

The key question for the judge to consider is whether Duffy was coerced into going along with a scheme concocted by powerful political operatives, or whether he was a participant in setting the parameters for repayment.

As Bayne went through emails between PMO staffers in February 2013, Duffy said he was unaware at the time they were discussing a scenario where he would say he had made a mistake with his expenses and commit to repay them.

In this sketch, Sen. Mike Duffy responds to defence lawyer Donald Bayne at his trial in Ottawa on Monday.
GREG BANNING/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Again, to be clear, was the scenario yours?" Bayne asked.

"Not mine, didn't contain my views of what had gone on. It was completely at odds, 180 degrees from what I believed," Duffy said.

Duffy has maintained he did not break any rules when he claimed living and travel expenses based on the premise his primary residence was in P.E.I. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Gold-medal marks for young clarinetist

ROYAL CONSERVATORY

Woodwind wonder tops in all of Canada

She may be one of the best young clarinet players in Canada, but Kanata Lakes resident Andrea Yan Kai Sim said she is taking a break after scoring the top mark in the nation for clarinet performance.

The 17-year-old was awarded a gold medal on Nov. 22 after taking the Royal Conservatory's graduate-level examination.

"It was kind of unexpected, I think," said Andrea of the award. "It was really a great honour for me and it was really a reflection of how much my teachers had done and kind of a reward for my family, especially my parents and the dedication of my teachers."

At the same ceremony, another Kanata resident, Isabelle Hébert, was recognized for top mark in Ontario for the level 10 violin examination.

Andrea said she's not sure what her future holds, but the clarinet is an important part of her and likely something she will keep as a hobby.

For now, she is studying biomedical sciences at the University of Ottawa, she said, "trying to see what I like."

Andrea has been a musician since age 5, starting with the piano before taking up the clarinet at age 11.

Andrea Yan Kai Sim calls her gold medal "unexpected." CONTRIBUTED

> **Your air is producing your own sound.**
> Andrea Yan Kai Sim

"My mom kind of wanted me to do a second instrument," she said. Not interested in string instruments as her brother played those, she went with the clarinet.

"A clarinet is kind of unique in that your air is producing your own sound, and you can really shape it and be an artist in that way," said Andrea.

Learning to appreciate the instrument from teacher David Renaud, Andrea said the results of the examination are a reflection of what Renaud and others have taught her.

Andrea has won several awards for her clarinet playing, including finishing second in the 2014 Canadian Music Competition in the winds 15-and-under category, and third at the Ontario Music Festival.

Now taking a step back from the clarinet, Andrea said winning such a prestigious award to top off her accomplishments was a "big bonus."

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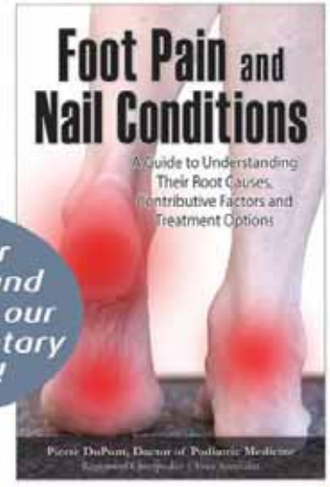
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RECOMMENDATIONS

Report released on assisted dying

The practice of physician-assisted dying should be publicly funded by Canadian provinces, available to adults of any age, and not put doctors at risk of criminal prosecution, an expert advisory panel said Monday.

The recommendations were among 43 in the final report from the Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group, which was formed with input from 10 of the country's 13 provinces and territories.

The proposed guidelines found instant favour among advocates, who praised the panel for navigating a quagmire of competing policy concerns without losing sight of patients' needs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH

Sick boy will not get costly drug coverage

A New Brunswick mother says she's devastated after the provincial government rejected her request to fund an expensive drug treatment for her seriously ill son.

Morgan Doucet is 10 and has a rare blood condition called morquio syndrome that stunts growth and causes multiple health problems, including heart and airway disease.

There is no cure, but in 2014 Health Canada approved a new drug to treat the condition called Vimizim.

Last year, Doucet's doctor asked the province to pay for the treatment, which can cost about $200,000 a year. But in November his mother, Carolle Mazerolle, got word the province had turned them down.

"I cried," said Mazerolle in a phone interview from her home in the small community of Baie-Sainte-Anne.

"I find that terrible. I have a sick child. They have a treatment there that could help him, and they won't give it to me."

Mazerolle said her son's condition has already deteriorated since they made the request of the province. "The more I'm waiting, the worse he's getting," she said.

Morgan Doucet struggles with a rare blood disease.
CONTRIBUTED

A spokesman for the New Brunswick Department of Health would not discuss Doucet, citing privacy concerns. But in an email, Bruce Macfarlane noted that the national advisory body that recommends whether drugs should be covered determined that Vimizim should not be.

Patients can apply to have the New Brunswick government cover treatment not listed in the drug plan, but such cases are referred to experts in Ontario for review. In Doucet's case, the expert rejected the request, saying that Doucet had symptoms that were "extremely unlikely" to be alleviated by Vimizim. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

QUEBEC NO CHARGES IN 2014 BLAZE No criminal charges will be laid in the fire that killed 32 people at a seniors' residence in Quebec nearly two years ago, the Crown announced Monday. "In light of the expert and witness testimony that was heard and the evidence gathered by investigators, the DPCP (the Crown) is not able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a criminal act was ever committed," prosecutor Annie Landreville said.

FRANCES DROUIN/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mom tells girl's trafficking story

PROSTITUTION

'Boyfriend pimp' took her daughter away

Hindy Pennock would drive around in circles until the early hours of the morning looking for her 13-year-old daughter. That's how it started.

Then she noticed a change in her daughter's underwear, from normal little girl pants to lacy, lower-cut undies.

"We taught our daughter not to get into cars with strangers, but we did not prepare her for a good-looking guy to walk into her life and traffic her. We never knew about 'boyfriend' pimps," she said.

Hindy Pennock was a stay-at-home mom. Her husband, Ray, was a businessman. They lived in a nice neighbourhood in Winnipeg with their two daughters. Then, they lost one.

For 12 years, Pennock's daughter Jessica was trapped, trafficked from Winnipeg to Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver, forced to have sex for money.

When she first ran away from home, she was gone only a weekend. Then she was gone for a few weeks, then months.

She would always call home, but only for 30 seconds at a time, enough to say, "I love you, Mommy. I'll be home sometime." Enough for Pennock to know her daughter was, at least, alive.

When Pennock looks back today, she can identify some of the warning signs she missed all those years ago. She has taken the difficult step of publicly sharing her story to help others.

"We never thought in a million years that this could happen to her. Never, ever," she said.

The Pennock family changed provinces when Jessica was 10 and she was "horrifically" bullied by her new classmates. "We saw this bright, self-reliant little girl disappear. She just started to vanish," Pennock said.

To help her daughter try to make friends, Pennock drove Jessica to a recreation centre to play basketball on Friday nights. There, she met a boy who gave her crack cocaine, but said it was just like marijuana.

Soon she was addicted.

She started to lie and run away. At 15, she told her parents she was moving in with her new boyfriend, but she never let them meet him.

Some days she would come home with her nails painted or her hair done; other days she would come home "beaten black and blue" with boot marks all over her body. Jessica was silent when her parents asked what was going on.

Her mother said they went to the police, to psychiatrists, teachers and doctors, but no one could help.

"Just let her know that you love her and one day she'll come home," Pennock was told.

Often the only place parents can seek help from is advocacy organizations that work with victims and understand the power dynamic at between pimps and girls.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WATCH FOR:

1. Hiding the identity of boyfriends or new friends.
2. Lingerie crumpled up and stashed under the bed.
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5. Becoming possessive of computers or cellphones.
6. Wallets or handbags filled with cash.

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Trump's comments are hurting children

UNITED STATES

Young minds suffer from Islamophobic sentiments

A backlash against American Muslims is leaving a mark on some of the nation's youngest minds.

After seeing U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump call on television for barring Muslims from entering the country, Sofia Yassini, 8, checked the locks on her family's home in Plano, Texas, imagining the army would take them away. She raced to her room and stuffed a pair of Barbie dolls, a tub of peanut butter and a toothbrush into a bag. She insisted on bringing boots for the long boat ride she imagined was coming.

When her mother, Melissa, arrived home from work, Sofia ran into her arms and cried.

"I want people to understand the impact that their words have on these children," said Melissa Yassini, who described the experience in a Facebook post that had been shared more than 21,000 times as of Monday. "We often forget, we're waging war on one another with words, and we're adults. We can take it. The kids are suffering with this. They go to school every day and they're afraid to tell people they're Muslim. This has to stop."

Anti-Muslim sentiment was building in the days before 14 people were killed Dec. 2 in the massacre at a disability centre in Southern California by a Muslim couple investigators say were inspired at least in part by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group. Some governors had already said they wouldn't allow Syrians fleeing civil war into their states because of extremist fears. Experts say Trump's call Dec. 7 to keep all Muslims from entering the U.S. — a plan he said would apply only temporarily and to non-citizens — only fanned the flames.

Sofia Yassini, 8, receives a hug from her mother.
LM OTERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muslim parents say their children hear disparaging remarks in their own communities, see hateful T-shirts, and have had friends abandon them.

Ahad Khan, 12, came home from school in rural Westminster, Md., in tears because his best friend called him a future terrorist, according to Ahad's father, Raza Khan. Khan, the chairman of the science department at Carroll Community College, shared Ahad's experience in an open letter to Trump on Facebook. As of Monday, it had been shared more than 4,300 times.

As Khan tucked his son in last week, he left him with the words he recited when he became a U.S. citizen two decades ago: "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"I don't know why, I don't know how people forget that," Khan said later. "We have to; otherwise we're dividing ourselves." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**
> Line from U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, recited by one father to his son last week

REFUGEES

EU to pay to house migrants in Greece

The European Union pledged Monday to spend 80 million euros ($88 million US) to house migrants in Greece even as it seeks tougher procedures for asylum-seekers travelling to the continent.

Kristalina Georgieva, the EU Commissioner for Budget and Human resources, signed an agreement for a rent subsidy program for up to 20,000 people next year.

Thousands of stranded refugees are currently being housed in old venues from the 2004 Olympics, at camps on Greek islands, or are sleeping in tents pitched in city squares and parks in Athens.

"The 80 million euros is for the year 2016 ... after that it would be assessed. It could be expanded," Georgieva told The Associated Press. "The number involved over the year would be quite a lot higher than 20,000."

Nearly 800,000 migrants and refugees have crossed through Greece this year, hoping to travel to northern Europe. But Macedonia and other Balkan countries last month toughened their border rules, restricting crossings to those from war-torn nations like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan and stranding others. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Troops overtake stronghold
Syrian troops and allied militiamen seized control of a military airbase near Damascus Monday. It's a rare victory in an area considered an opposition stronghold. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teacher makes up attack
A French teacher who claimed a masked assailant invoking ISIL attacked her made it up, French prosecutors said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighter falls to his death
Chicago firefighter Daniel Capuano, 42, died Monday after falling down an elevator shaft. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Taxi industry hits back with new app

RIDESHARING

Unlike Uber, The Ride tacks on service provider's fees

Canada's taxi industry has a new tool in its fight against the rise of Uber.

The Ride, a new app launched on Monday, works similarly to Uber by offering passengers a more tech-savvy way to connect with local taxi-cab companies.

Like Uber, users must open a personal profile and then use the cellphone's GPS location feature before they hail a cab through the virtual service.

Unlike Uber, The Ride comes with extra fees through your wireless provider.

The app will charge a fixed $2 "convenience fee" for hailing a nearby taxi.

In smaller towns, where local cab companies may not support the app yet, The Ride will charge $1 to connect the passenger to a local dispatch centre over the phone.

Toronto-based CellWand Communications created The Ride. CellWand is the company behind #TAXI, a voice phone service that connects customers to a local cab company for a service fee.

CellWand's new app also provides real-time public transit schedules for 75 cities and communities across the country, with plans to roll out data on bike-sharing services next year.

Taxi-cab operators have been clashing with Uber, urging local governments in some cities to ban the service over various concerns, such as proper licensing and insurance.

Toronto cab drivers staged a protest last week to back their call for local bylaws that would clamp down on UberX drivers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A police officer rides his bike between a row of cabs blocking the street during a recent taxi drivers day of protest against Uber in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$1.2B

The amount Canadians spent on taxis last year, according to a report from the Competition Bureau. The agency also found Uber prices were about 36 per cent lower than a comparable cab fare.

IN BRIEF

Big banks partnering with financial tech rivals

Financial technology start-ups are partnering with the very banks the so-called fintech companies had set out to upheave. CIBC has waded into online lending through Montreal-based upstart Thinking Capital, Scotiabank has invested in Kabbage, a U.S.-based lender, and Royal Bank CEO Dave McKay has noted the importance of collaborating with early stage companies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INVESTIGATION

Major retailers sell slave-peeled shrimp

Poor migrant workers and children are being sold to factories in Thailand and forced to peel shrimp that ends up in global supply chains, including those of Walmart and Red Lobster, an investigation has found.

At the Gig Peeling Factory, nearly 100 Burmese labourers were trapped, most working for almost nothing. They spent 16 hours a day with their hands in ice water, ripping the guts, heads, tails and shells off shrimp. "They didn't let us rest," said Eae Hpaw, 16, her arms a patchwork of scars from shrimp-related infections and allergies. "We stopped working around 7 in the evening. We would take a shower and sleep. Then we would start again around 3 in the morning."

Hundreds of shrimp-peeling sheds are hidden in plain sight in Samut Sakhon, an hour outside Bangkok, some with slaves locked inside. Last month, Associated Press journalists followed and filmed trucks loaded with freshly peeled shrimp from the Gig shed to major Thai exporting companies.

U.S. customs records show the shrimp made its way into the supply chains of major U.S. food stores and retailers such as Walmart, Kroger, Whole Foods, Dollar General and Petco, along with restaurants such as Red Lobster and Olive Garden. It also entered supply chains for some of America's best-known seafood brands and pet foods, including Chicken of the Sea and Fancy Feast. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Win Win Than, 25, who worked in a shrimp shed in Samut Sakhon, Thailand, to pay off her $550 US debt. She said she tried to run away but was caught and handcuffed in a room. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

EMMA TEITEL: ON THE PROVINCE'S POT-POSITIVE PROPOSAL

There is nothing more mainstream than the LCBO. Premier Kathleen Wynne is probably right that such a place is well-suited to the legal distribution of marijuana.

Ontario is a strange and contradictory place. You can't smoke a cigarette on a patio or, God forbid, on a sports field, but soon you might be able to drive to the nearest liquor store and pick up a bag of weed with your Chardonnay.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne announced this week that if marijuana is legalized in Canada as planned, she'd like the drug to be sold in provincially-owned LCBO stores. Who knows — maybe the LCBO will become the Costco of debauchery, where college kids can acquire the bulk of their party favours in a single trip.

This plan, fun as it sounds, is terrible news for would-be mom-and-pop pot dispensaries, independent sellers in the province who were hoping to turn a profit from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's legal weed promise. But perhaps their loss is our gain. After all, what better way to deplete the marijuana black market and battle stigmatization around casual pot use than by making the drug appear as conventional and mainstream as possible?

There is nothing more mainstream than the LCBO, where customers can donate money to charity every time they check out, and wine coolers are often stored the earnestly titled "Party Zone" section. Wynne is probably right that such a place is well-suited to the legal distribution of marijuana; sure, potwary people will be shocked and possibly angry the first few times they walk into the LCBO and see and smell green, but by their fourth or fifth visit the drug will register as no more offensive than Mike's Hard Lemonade or pumpkin-spice vodka (and maybe less so). Besides, what better way to get mom to try that sativa strain you know will alleviate her sciatica problem than a trip to the LCBO where the pot is steps away from the Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc?

Who knows — maybe the LCBO will become the Costco of debauchery.

High hypocrisy If the LCBO suggests cheese and wine pairings, logically it should recommend food and Netflix accompaniments for cannabis, which is far less dangerous to public health, Emma Teitel writes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yet where Wynne's plan succeeds on public access it fails big time in its messaging to younger Canadians.

When marijuana becomes legal we are told the LCBO will be extremely careful not to promote pot. Last month, Warren (Smokey) Thomas, president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, said if the LCBO sells pot it will work within a "strong regulatory framework," where the drug is subject to a "ban on marketing." Government-regulated pot sold by government dispensaries, Wynne tells us, are "socially responsible" because, among other things, impressionable teens won't be bombarded with pot-positive messaging.

This may sound like a good thing, and it would be, were it not for the fact that this selective marketing is hypocritical in the extreme. Drinking alcohol, according to a study in the U.S. National Library of Medicine, is riskier than smoking pot, yet the LCBO — a government body— markets and glorifies alcohol like Colgate does toothpaste."

From its sprawling wall ads featuring smiling, sun-kissed beer drinkers to its extensive wine pairing lists ("These easy-drinking wines are great anytime-sippers"), it's no mystery that the government has not and will not take the same interest in warning kids against alcohol as it will in warning them against marijuana. But it should, because selling both alcohol and pot in the same government-regulated store and feverishly marketing the former while warning against the latter, suggests the latter — marijuana — is more dangerous than alcohol. And this simply isn't true.

In the spirit of fairness and public-health accuracy, if weed becomes legal, the LCBO should market both substances equally. In fact, government stores should run a "pot pairings list" alongside their wine pairings list. If a Riesling is good with "spicy Thai dishes," and "Indian curry" (which somehow I doubt) the LCBO should also inform Ontarians about the appropriate food and Netflix pairings for an Indica, Purple Haze, and Mango Kish. If its catalogues feature photos of thirty-something women sitting by a fire, beaming at each other over generous glasses of merlot, it should also feature potheads cracking up on a ski hill or staring blankly into space on an exceptionally worn sofa.

Of course it makes logical sense that the government would market alcohol and not weed. (I am also just as elated as anyone else about the fact that this week select supermarkets across the province began selling beer). Alcohol is socially acceptable and weed is not. But it doesn't make moral sense. Recreational pot use may make you laugh at things that aren't funny, eat things that aren't tasty, and spiral into a vortex of self-doubt. But it probably won't kill you. Our government shouldn't indicate otherwise.

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star. She has been a front-of-the-book columnist for Maclean's magazine for the past four years, focusing on a wide range of subjects including women's issues and popular culture. She won the National Magazine Awards gold award for columns in 2013.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Make peace with holiday chaos and savour the season

I met a friend for coffee, and neither of us had words for how we're doing.

"Blaahh!" she said with her hands flailing in the air.

It had taken us an extended series of emails to finally pick a time and place to meet — we're each busy, our brains full, at this time of year. She has better reasons: kids, the culmination of a few major projects, the anticipation of a few more. But even I — who normally have ample time for Gilmore Girls reruns — have been packing my days with holiday get-togethers tight as a bulging suitcase.

My sense of calm is out the window, and it's wonderful.

The drink date with a few friends where I meet someone new, funny and charmingly opinionated.

The dinner date where we decided to attend one random event a week in 2016 and call it The Outing (Salsa! Pottery! An academic lecture of the esoteric kind!).

The lunch with my aunt and uncle where politics stayed off the table and we bonded over old stories of my grandmother, which expand in the retelling.

The brunch/skate/The Power Plant gallery trip where we ate slowly, slid on ice as the lake water rippled by and found ourselves in a beautiful, yet repellent, infestation of black paper butterflies.

It doesn't take much to see the precious side.

The drunken debate over communism at the pub. The "once a year whether you need it or not" lunch with an old family friend and his joke-ready compatriots. The cosy, classic dinner at my home away from home.

And the other morning's coffee date, which left me excited about everything, and convinced of all things hopeful, most especially the joy of new friends.

In a city where I can go months without seeing some people, this time of year is a whirlwind of love, a helter-skelter romp through relationships, a fast-track reminder of how lucky I am, how rich in kind people.

This is the Christmas feeling. Of time well spent. Each little visit its own small gift. Its own chance to be smitten, and to feel good about who you are, and where you are, and who you know. That can be an elusive sense much of the year, when you're just trying to get by, and get something done, while the world seems held up by intractable wars, unfathomable suffering and impending doom of one kind or another.

Perhaps it is, but it is not only.

And as it turns out, it doesn't take much, or long, to see the precious side.

Just a cup of coffee.

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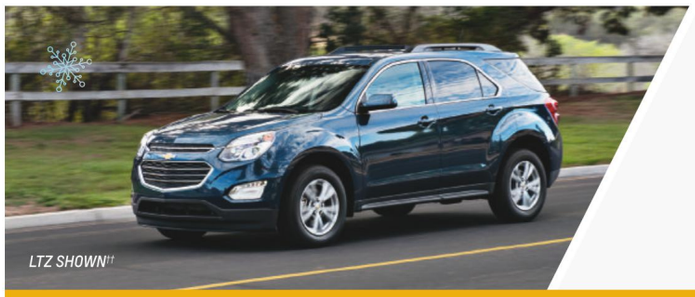

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Singer to embark on 56-night North American tour in 2016 with stops in Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.

Star Wars primer

Frozen in carbonite for the last 38 years? Recently returned from exile on Dagobah? You can still turn your watercooler into the Mos Eisley Cantina with this Star Wars 101 crash course, just in time for The Force Awakens. **COLIN MCNEIL/METRO**

In four days, the Force will awaken for the first time in a decade.

A new Star Wars movie is coming out, and in case you haven't heard, advance ticket sales have shattered records. Star Wars-branded merchandise has already done $1 billion in sales — and no one's even seen the movie yet.

But after 38 years, six feature-length films and more novels, comics and TV shows than you can shake a lightsaber at, why is the world going crazy for another Star Wars movie?

Well, for one thing, George Lucas had nothing to do with it, having sold the franchise to Disney for a cool $4 billion in 2012. And believe it or not, that's a relief to many diehard fans.

They had their hearts broken when Lucas decided to alter his original masterpieces in the 1990s by inserting gratuitous computer animation and changing essential details in character-defining scenes (read: Greedo shooting first).

Then there's the nostalgia factor. The last time anyone got this excited for a new Star Wars movie, we got Jar Jar Binks and a sour taste in our mouths for the price of admission. But those were the prequels — weird, lame prequels that took some of our favourite characters and ideas, and blew them up like the Death Star blew up Alderaan.

To that end, Disney has very consciously tried to entwine this new film with the classics we all know and love. The trailers are light on new characters, heavy on X-Wings, Han and Chewie, and goosebump-inducing shots of the Millennium Falcon.

So for every fan who's been holding on to their VHS copies of the original trilogy, for every kid that came out of the theatre in 1999 confused and disappointed, The Force Awakens has been a long time coming.

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

1 All in the family

The ties that bind the Star Wars universe — through its soon-to-be seven films, a myriad of novels and television shows — are familial ones. The story begins with a young Anakin Skywalker, who (spoiler alert!) grows into a Jedi Knight, falls to the Dark Side, and is defeated by his own children, Luke and Leia. And it gets much deeper: Luke's mentors are the same as his father's, his droid companion C-3PO was built by his father. Darth Sidious (a.k.a Emperor Palpatine) hails from the same planet as Luke's mother.

With The Force Awakens set 30 years after Return of the Jedi, and a slew of new characters, it's a safe bet the Skywalker and Solo family trees will grow more branches. Just who are they and how are they related to the Skywalker legacy? Not even Jedi clairvoyance could reveal that.

2 The Force?

Obi-Wan Kenobi called the Force an "energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together." That's the philosophical view.

The prequel trilogy, much to the displeasure of many Star Wars fans, boiled the Force down to quantifiable, microscopic particles called midi-chlorians. The higher a being's midi-chlorian count, the more potentially powerful they could be in the ways of the Force.

There are two very broad categories of Force users — light side and dark side. The light side of the Force is all about peace, love and knowledge. Namaste. The dark side are the naughty ones — they use raw emotions like anger, fear and even love as their power base.

3 Empire vs. Rebellion

The bad guys in the original Star Wars trilogy, and likely in The Force Awakens, are the Galactic Empire — a totalitarian regime ruled by a Sith lord. The Empire is a xenophobic organization that enforces its rule of law with blaster rifles and storm troopers. In past films, they have not hesitated to commit genocide on a planetary scale.

The rebellion is a group of volunteer freedom fighters who stand against the Empire, trying to restore the Republic of old. Always outnumbered and outgunned, they fought a desperate battle against the Empire, finally toppling it thanks in large part to a young man named Luke Skywalker.

From what we know from the Episode VII trailers, The Empire, or a splinter of it, has survived decades after the fall of the second Death Star.

STAR WARS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

MAY 19, 1999

Ep. I: The Phantom Menace

Jedi Knights Obi-Wan Kenobi and Qui-Gon Jinn battle an evil Sith Lord called Darth Maul. Meanwhile, Anakin Skywalker learns about the Force.

GROSS $474,544,677

MAY 16, 2002

Ep. II: Attack of the Clones

Ten years later, Obi-Wan starts to unravel dark threads hinting at a separatist war within the Galactic Republic, while Anakin falls in love with the former Queen of the planet he helped save as a boy.

GROSS $310,675,583

2003, 2008

Clone Wars

Two separate cartoon shows, Star Wars: Clone Wars (2003) and Star Wars: The Clone Wars (2008) bridge the three-year gap between Episodes II and III.

GROSS N/A

MAY 19, 2005

Ep. III: Revenge of the Sith

After a Sith Lord called Darth Sidious seizes the Republic in a political coup, he orders all Jedi exterminated. Embracing the dark side of the Force, Anakin joins him and becomes Darth Vader.

GROSS $380,262,555

2014, 1985

Rebels; Droids; and Ewoks

Three separate animated series, Rebels chronicles the genesis of the rebellion against the Galactic Empire, Ewoks follows a cast of the cuddly critters, and Droids the beloved characters C-3PO and R2-D2.

GROSS N/A

MAY 25, 1977

Ep. IV: A New Hope

Luke Skywalker, son of Anakin, joins a rebellion against what is now the Galactic Empire — a totalitarian regime ruled by Darth Vader and his master, Sidious. Luke befriends smuggler Han Solo and rebellion leader Princess Leia.

GROSS $460,998,007

JUNE 20, 1980

Ep. V: The Empire Strikes Back

Luke trains with the last of the Jedi masters — Yoda — in preparation for his battle with Darth Vader, while Han Solo and Leia are betrayed by an old friend. Vader reveals he is Luke's father.

GROSS $290,158,751

MAY 25, 1983

Ep. VI: Return of the Jedi

While Luke confronts his father and Emperor Palpatine personally, Han and Leia help rebel forces topple the Empire once and for all in a climactic space battle.

GROSS $309,125,409

1970S TO PRESENT

The lost storylines

For decades between the films, fans have sated their appetite for Star Wars with an entire galaxy of novels and comics. These books have now been officially de-canonized by Disney, leaving many beloved storylines in timeline purgatory.

GROSS N/A

DEC. 18, 2015

Ep. VII: The Force Awakens

The plot details of Episode VII are a closely guarded secret, but we do know Luke, Han and Leia feature in it, alongside new protagonists and a sinister looking Sith called Kylo Ren. It takes place 30 years after Episode VI.

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WHO'S WHO

Droids

A catchall term for robots, shorthand for androids. Anything made of metal that moves around, bleeps and bloops or speaks is a droid. Though sentient, they possess no inherent rights or freedoms as beings.

Stormtroopers

The mainstay of the Empire's foot soldiers, these iconically armoured warriors have been present in nearly every Star Wars film. And yes, they're human beings underneath the armour.

Sleek spaceships

Almost true characters themselves, Star Wars symbolism is rife with iconic spaceships like the rough and tough Millennium Falcon, the darkly sleek Tie fighters, and the rebels' go-to space fighter of choice, the X-Wing.

Sith

The evil anti-thesis to the Jedi, they harness the power of the Dark Side of the Force. There can be only two Sith in existence at one time — a master, and an apprentice. These guys wield red lightsabers and adopt a 'decapitate first, ask questions later' attitude.

Jedi

Somewhere between medieval knights of Arthurian legend and mystic druids, Jedi are Force users who tap into the light side, using their power only for defence and knowledge.

COLIN MCNEIL/METRO

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Stay healthy this winter

As cold and flu season kicks into high gear, here's what you need to do to get your defenses ready and stay healthy this winter.

First things first — start with a shot of prevention. Vaccination is the number one way to reduce your risk of severe flu symptoms this year. If you want to learn more about the flu shot, ask your Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacist or visit shoppersdrugmart.ca/flushot.

Remember that not all seasonal illnesses are prevented by the flu vaccine. Cold and flu germs are easily spread through contact with contaminated surfaces — anything from door knobs and shopping cart handles to faucets and even items of clothing.

Scrub your hands well with soap and warm water for 15 to 20 seconds after touching anything that might carry germs. Be sure to have hand sanitizer nearby for when you can't wash.

Lack of sleep may compromise the immune system, so missing out on your zzzz's may make you more vulnerable to colds and flu. Sleep better by avoiding heavy meals or large amounts of liquid before bed. Studies suggest that sticking to a sleep schedule is also important for a good night's sleep.

SHUTTERSTOCK

Studies also show that vitamin D may help boost the immune system.

In winter, those of us in northern climates may be missing out on "the sunshine vitamin," so consider loading up on foods rich in vitamin D like milk and salmon. Enhance your diet with a vitamin D supplement or a multivitamin to help you stay healthy this winter.

Feel better when you're under the weather

Even if you're careful about prevention, you still may come down with a bug this winter. Check with your pharmacist to see which medications may be right for you.

For throat and chest

Robitussin Cough Control Extra Strength with Mucus and Phlegm Relief works to relieve sore throat pain, dry coughs and chest congestion.

For sinuses

Otrivin® Saline Severe Congestion Relief is a powerful, naturally sourced nasal spray that unblocks nasal passages and relieves nasal and sinus congestion. Breathe Right® non-medicated nasal strips instantly open up the nose and are available for both adults and kids. Advil® Cold & Sinus opens airways by shrinking swollen nasal passages, making it easier to breathe.

For kids

Children's Advil® relieves fevers in children age 2 to 12 for up to eight hours in three great-tasting flavours.

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Pete Rose's latest application for reinstatement to baseball was rejected by MLB commissioner Rob Manfred

Maas appeal lures Eskimos

CFL

Grey Cup champs hire QB star of old to steer ship

When Jason Maas was offered the position of head coach of the Grey Cup champion Edmonton Eskimos there was no hesitation whatsoever before he said yes.

The former Eskimos quarterback was introduced Monday as the team's new head coach, replacing Chris Jones who left to become vice-president of football operations, general manager and head coach of the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Maas, with three Grey Cup rings to his credit — two while playing for Edmonton — said the opportunity was simply too good to pass up.

"I'm thrilled, I'm very passionate about the city and I'm glad to be back," Maas told a news conference in the Eskimos dressing room. "My goal was always at some point to come back to Edmonton. This is always where I wanted to end up."

Even he admitted, however, he didn't expect it to happen so quickly. He's only been coaching three years since retiring in 2011. He was quarterbacks and receivers coach for the Toronto Argonauts from 2012-14 and this past season was offensive co-ordinator and quarterbacks coach with the Ottawa Redblacks who lost the Grey Cup to Edmonton.

The Edmonton Eskimos new coach Jason Maas will replace Grey Cup-winning coach Chris Jones at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton. JOHN ULAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I understand the expectations of Edmonton," he said. "I would prefer to come into a situation with great personnel and great staff and great people and when you're 14-4 and you've won the Grey Cup I believe it's obvious you have that here."

Maas said he will be making announcements in January on assistant coaches.

Still to be worked out between the Eskimos and the Redblacks is the issue of compensation. Traditionally CFL teams have not asked for compensation when coaches leave for better opportunities but Ottawa has asked. Hervey, who did not ask for compensation from Saskatchewan when Jones left, said he had no comment to make on the situation.

> **My goal was always at some point to come back to Edmonton.**
> Jason Maas

Maas spent nine years with Edmonton, 2000-05 and 2008-10, helping them to Grey Cup wins in 2002 and 2005 and was the Eskimos outstanding player in 2001 and 2004.

Returning to Edmonton, he said, will also provide the opportunity to reunite his family in a city they love.

"It's been a long journey. It's been four years of us being apart, with an understanding wife and kids, to allow me to have my passion for football and to realize a dream and a goal," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Giants signal intent with Cueto signing

The San Francisco Giants' upgraded rotation is taking shape, with the 2014 World Series champions agreeing Monday with Johnny Cueto on a six-year contract.

Cueto, who won the 2015 World Series with the Royals, is set to join a rotation led by left-hander Madison Bumgarner and new addition righty Jeff Samardzija, who was introduced Friday after formalizing his $90-million, five-year contract — one week after the team lost out to the Diamondbacks on Zack Greinke. Cueto's deal was pending a physical, the team said, and contains a team option for 2022.

Johnny Cueto GETTY IMAGES

Under the agreement, Cueto can opt out after the 2017 season and become a free agent again. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

3-game ban for Thompson

Anaheim Ducks forward Nate Thompson was suspended Monday for three games without pay for an illegal check to the head of Carolina defenceman Justin Faulk during a 5-1 loss to the Hurricanes last week.

The NHL said Thompson will forfeit $25,806, which will go to the Players' Emergency Assistance Fund.

Thompson was assessed a major penalty for elbowing and a game misconduct following the hit on Faulk. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Chicago's Crawford first star of the week

Goaltender Corey Crawford of the Chicago Blackhawks was named the NHL's first star of the week on Monday.

Crawford won all three of his starts for the week with a 0.33 goals-against average, .989 save percentage and two shutouts to help the Blackhawks climb into second place in the Central Division. Crawford earned a pair of shutouts, making 25 saves in a 2-0 victory over Winnipeg on Dec. 11 and 30 saves in a 4-0 triumph over Vancouver on Dec. 13.

Edmonton left-winger Taylor Hall was the second star with three goals and three assists, including two game-winning goals, to help the Oilers complete a perfect 5-0-0 homestand with a pair of victories. Defenceman Justin Faulk was third star with three goals and three assists to lead Carolina to a pair of wins in three starts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Senators-Kings game on Monday night.

TENNIS

Magazine honours Serena for great year

Serena Williams is Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of the Year — the first female athlete honoured on her own by the magazine in more than 30 years.

Williams came within two matches of tennis' first calendar-year Grand Slam since 1988, a bid that ended with a semifinal loss at the U.S. Open.

In all, the 34-year-old American went 53-3 during 2015 with five titles, including at the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon. Williams was No. 1 in the WTA rankings all season.

3
Number of majors Williams won in 2015

"She was the most deserving person for the award. She had an amazing year. The way she won her events; the fact that she's done this for so many years at such a high level," said Paul Fichtenbaum, editor of the Sports Illustrated Group. "She was a terrific candidate in a year of terrific candidates."

The cover photo of Williams — in high heels, sitting on a throne — was "her idea, intended ... to express her own ideal of femininity, strength, power," managing editor Christian Stone wrote on SI.com.

Runner Mary Decker in 1983 was the last female athlete to earn the magazine's award by herself. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serena Williams on SI cover. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Slow Cooker Butter Chicken

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

A dreamy version of the traditional Indian dish using healthy coconut oil instead of butter.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 6 hours
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 2 lb chicken thighs or breasts, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 tsp minced ginger
- 147 ml tube of tomato paste
- 1 heaping Tbsp curry
- 1 400 ml can coconut milk
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 Tbsp coconut oil
- Small handful of cilantro for garnish

Directions
1. Put everything in the slow cooker and stir it all around.
2. Close the lid. Set the timer for 6 hours. Don't worry if you need to be away from home for 8 hours or longer — it will be okay.
3. Serve with a big spoonful of jasmine rice and a sprinkling of cilantro.

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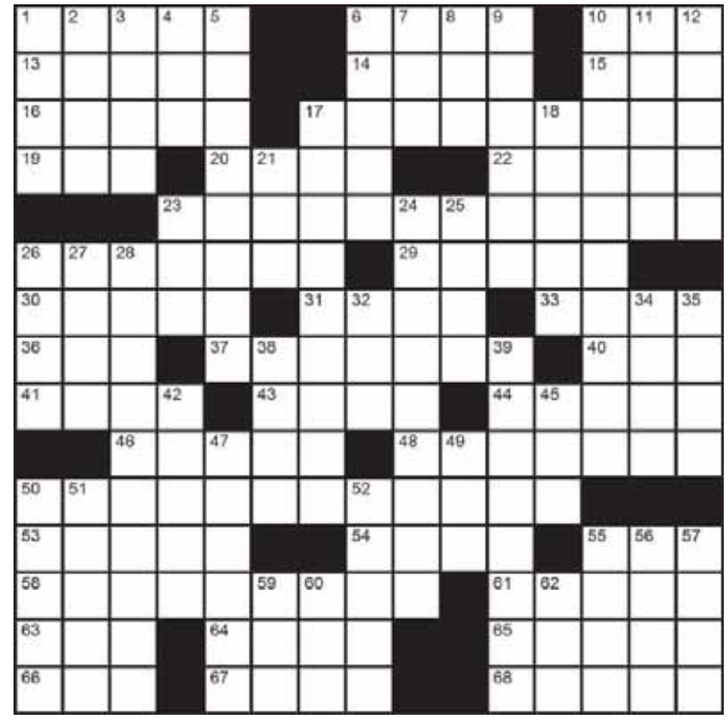
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Cook the broccoli
6. Actor Jared
10. Bar serving
13. Red Hot _ Peppers
14. Architect Mr. Saarinen
15. 'Passion' suffix
16. Paddled
17. Vancouver's province denizen, British _
19. Suit part
20. Intend
22. "Doctor Zhivago" (1965) character
23. Song from Leonard Cohen's 2014 'Popular Problems' album that goes "But I was taken out of Egypt / I was bound to a burden...": 3 wds.
26. Mr. Hall of TV talk
29. Buddy of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
30. _ Ste. Marie, ON
31. Coat the highway
33. Increases twofold, for short
36. Baby dog
37. Cobblers, at times
40. 'King' of France
41. Winter hill ride
43. A _ _ (Record company division)
44. Take away weapons
46. Steal, archaically
48. Canadian comic actor Rick
50. Foothills of The Rockies destination in BC known for dinosaur tracks: 2 wds.
53. Has _ _ (Is able to escape)
54. "Dedicated to the _ _ Love" by The Shirelles
55. "Huh...?"
58. Hockey: Sidney Crosby's nickname: 3 wds.
61. Someone sympathetic
63. Hot season in Montreal
64. Crossed out
65. Stave off
66. Hotdog's li'l topping
67. Off-road rides, commonly
68. Loans

DOWN
1. Glaswegian
2. Popular cuisine
3. Ireland
4. Bitter _
5. 15th or 16th on Salt Lake City's state, variantly
6. A famous Tea
7. Conger, for one
8. _-Paz (Canadian Hip Hop group)
9. Pizazzes
10. Kellogg's cereal with 'Two Scoops!': 2 wds.
11. Someone from calendars
12. Ms. Suvari's
17. Kitchen gadget: 2 wds.
18. Blatted
21. Verdi aria: "_ Tu"
23. Opera singing style, _ canto
24. Leonard Cohen song (from the album at #23-Across) which is the theme tune of the most recent season of HBO's "True Detective"
25. Trucker-to-trucker talker
26. Some slitherers
27. Mr. Julia
28. Linda Evangelista, for one
32. Municipal council member, e.g.
34. Ms. Loughlin
35. A famous Molly
38. Icicle holder
39. _ mask (Operating room necessity)
42. Launch
45. Hebrides 'no'
47. Tennis legend Ms. Gibson
49. Keats specialty
50. Electroshock-er
51. Amalgamate
52. Banned-in-sports substances, slang-style
55. Small songbird
56. Farm group
57. Mr. Linkletter's
59. _. number
60. Mr. Bacon, briefly
62. Street sort, shortly

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You seem more easy-going and that's good. However, where money is concerned you cannot afford to be too laid-back or you will attract hangers-on and spongers and find yourself out of pocket. Watch your cashflow.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Partnership matters will go smoothly after the upsets and upheavals of recent weeks. You are a lot less competitive, and a lot more relaxed, in one-to-one situations.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Cosmic activity in your opposite sign of Sagittarius will remind you that you cannot always be top dog. If you want to get things done you must be ready to work with others.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Avoid stressful situations, especially if you are the kind of Cancer who gets upset when things go wrong. Nothing can be allowed to put your health at risk.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Raise your sights and show the world what you are capable of. Don't allow yourself to be distracted by trivial things, and don't try to be all things to all people.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Others may complain that nothing is happening but life is what you make of it and you are determined to make something really good. Show all the moaning minnies what a positive attitude can accomplish!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do you carry on along your present course or do you change direction and try something different? It might help to talk it over with friends and family. They can see your situation from a less personal perspective.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You need to take your cashflow situation more seriously than you have been. If resources are low then there are only two ways to build them up again: spend less or earn more.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't be scared to take a few chances and try your hand at something new. Leave your comfort zone and accomplish something truly worthwhile.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you do a good deed today you will be rewarded for it in the future. You would do it anyway even if you knew you would get nothing out of it — that's the kind of person you are!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What's coming into your life may seem like something you haven't earned but that's the wrong way to look at it. If you're being favoured it's because you have done something in the past that has helped others.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Flattery will take you a long way, but hard work will take you further. Cosmic activity in and around the career area of your chart makes it easy to impress with ideas and enthusiasm.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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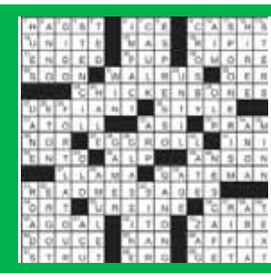

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